

December 29, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

An Appeal to the Postal Regulatory Commission
Regarding Docket #1366007-69142

This letter is my appeal regarding the closing of the Halsey, NE 69142
USPS located on the main street of Halsey, Thomas Co., Nebraska, 69142.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Colleen Higgins; I retired in January of 2010 after serving the Halsey Community for 35 years as their postmaster. The Halsey Post Office was notified of a pending closure and the community was given less than 2 weeks to prepare for the meeting on June 29th. This didn't provide the community ample time to prepare for the meeting. Questions sent out were misleading and confusing to our people on how to answer the questions correctly. The closure will destroy our community and our senior citizens will feel the effects of this the most.

One of our main concerns is the additional cost to the Highway Contract Route. The route from Thedford to Halsey is a transportation route. The docket mentions that will be changed to a delivery route, which means, there would be an additional 20-30 new customers from Thedford to Halsey. It didn't take into consideration the carrier sorting mail for Halsey's existing 65 boxes, making the deliveries to each of those, as well as selling stamps, etc. No mention of contractors' additional pay for that workload which would over burden the carrier and delay mail for both Halsey and Purdum residents. With the Purdum office under review for closure and Halsey being the Administrative Office over Purdum (population 10) it would be more feasible to reduce the hours of the Halsey office and continue serving the area covering over 100 miles.

The docket was full of conflicting information. The MPOO stated there would be no change of addresses, however the docket indicated a change of address will be assigned. The docket stated there was no postage meter for the Halsey office, which is not true. It has maintained a meter for the United States Government Department of Agriculture for over 40 years. Closing the Halsey office will affect the Government Agency, Nebraska State 4-H Camp, local schools and businesses.

The Halsey office is in great condition! A new roof, furnace, and water pump were installed last year. We added a new box section with parcel lockers and a new counter line.

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The closing of the Halsey office would make a hardship for our community, especially the senior citizens. We will have to travel over 20 miles to the nearest post office. The post office was established to serve the people. Please reconsider the closing of our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen Higgins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Colleen Higgins